



ISLINGTON

# Tacking Crime & Increasing Community Safety in Islington

Policy and Performance Scrutiny March 2022

# Islington Crime v Metropolitan Police Area



- Overall crime in Islington has fallen by 2.4% in 2021 compared with 2020 (623 fewer crimes) whilst across the Metropolitan Police Service area (MPS) there was a 0.1% increase.
- Islington has recorded reductions across all acquisitive crime categories (MV Crime, Theft and Burglary) in 2021 compared to 2020 and recorded larger reductions than the MPS as a whole.
- Islington has recorded larger overall reductions in all knife crime offence types compared to the MPS as a whole in 2021 compared to 2020. Overall Islington recorded a 12.8% reduction in knife crime offences in 2021 compared to 2020 (56 fewer offences) and ranked 11th out of 32 MPS boroughs.
- Islington recorded a 3.5% reduction in youth violence in 2021 compared to 2020, whilst across the Metropolitan Police Service there was a 0.6% reduction. However, the MPS recorded a larger reduction (12.1% reduction) in serious youth violence compared to Islington (6.1% reduction)
- Islington recorded a 9.1% increase in Violence Against the Person in 2021 compared to 2020 though the increase can be mostly attributed to increases in violence without injury. Islington has also recorded increases in Sexual offences (141 more offences in 2021 compared to 2020). Islington recorded larger increases in Violence Against the Person and Sexual offences compared to the MPS as a whole and were ranked 21st out of 32 MPS boroughs for both offence types.

# Crime Performance Summary

Crime Type	% Change		MPS Rank (out of 32)
Total Crime	2	↓	17
Violent Crime	9	↑	21
Sexual Offences	29	↑	21
Robbery	17	↓	9
Burglary	14	↓	14
MV Crime	12	↓	26
Theft	2	↓	8
Drugs	28	↓	20
Moped Enabled Crime	67	↑	2
Pedal Cycle Enabled Crime	4	↑	3
Serious Youth Violence	6	↓	11
Knife Crime	13	↓	11
Racial Offences	12	↑	15
Domestic Violence Offences	1	↑	21
DV Sanction Detections	5	↑	7

# What Impact Have We Had?

- Significant and sustained knife crime reductions of almost 60% seen over past three years in contrast to the London picture
- Undertaken wide range of pro-active work in the Safe Spaces and Women's Safety conversations early; leading the way within London
- Strengthening of early intervention and prevention services for children and young people through our new Young Islington universal youth offer
- Vast increase in numbers of domestic abuse survivors being supported due to implementation of Daily Safeguarding Meeting. Cases heard 15 times more quickly than previously with better engagement with survivors and a reduction in repeat referrals
- Islington Council achieved Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation in December - the gold standard for housing providers in tackling domestic abuse
- Taken over 1500 weapons from the streets from the installation of knife surrender bins
- Committed to trebling the number of Safe Havens to help safeguard people from 100 to 300
- Supported over 75 of the most vulnerable residents through the Community MARAC (multi-agency panel), significantly reducing the risk surrounding each individual
- Making physical changes to the environment in over 20 high harm hotspots to reduce crime and the fear of it

# What do we need to do next?

- Services throughout the council have seen huge increases in demand and complexity of cases. We will need to review council anti-social behaviour (ASB) process as part of a new ASB Strategy to meet the increasing and changing needs of residents
- The ongoing impact of the pandemic on Serious Youth Violence across London saw 2021 as the year with the highest number of teenage homicides on record with two of those in Islington. We will implement a public health approach to Violence Reduction in our five year strategy
- Address concerns from our residents about perceptions and feelings of safety on the streets
- Delivery of the new VAWG Strategy through our comprehensive partnership plan
- Women's Safety campaign and training with targeted sessions for perpetrators
- Build capacity to ensure that we can respond effectively to complex cases and to support vulnerable victims and perpetrators

# Police Response

- Uplift of Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) officers in Finsbury Park, Junction and Caledonian Wards
- Violence Suppression Unit (VSU) developed to target high-harm offenders & violence hotspots
- Cross border police and council partnerships in Finsbury Park (Op Perch) and EC1
- High harm offenders reviewed daily & joint visits tasked
- Daily violence briefing between police & Islington and Camden councils ensures fast information sharing on violent incidents and at-risk locations
- Monthly tactical tasking meeting focuses on violence, gang & knife crime reductions with resource planning between police and council
- Multi-agency offender management through processes (MAPPA, MARAC & IOM)
- Investment of officers embedded in the council (YOS, Licensing, Outreach, Integrated ASB team, funded homeless SPOC).

# Police Response

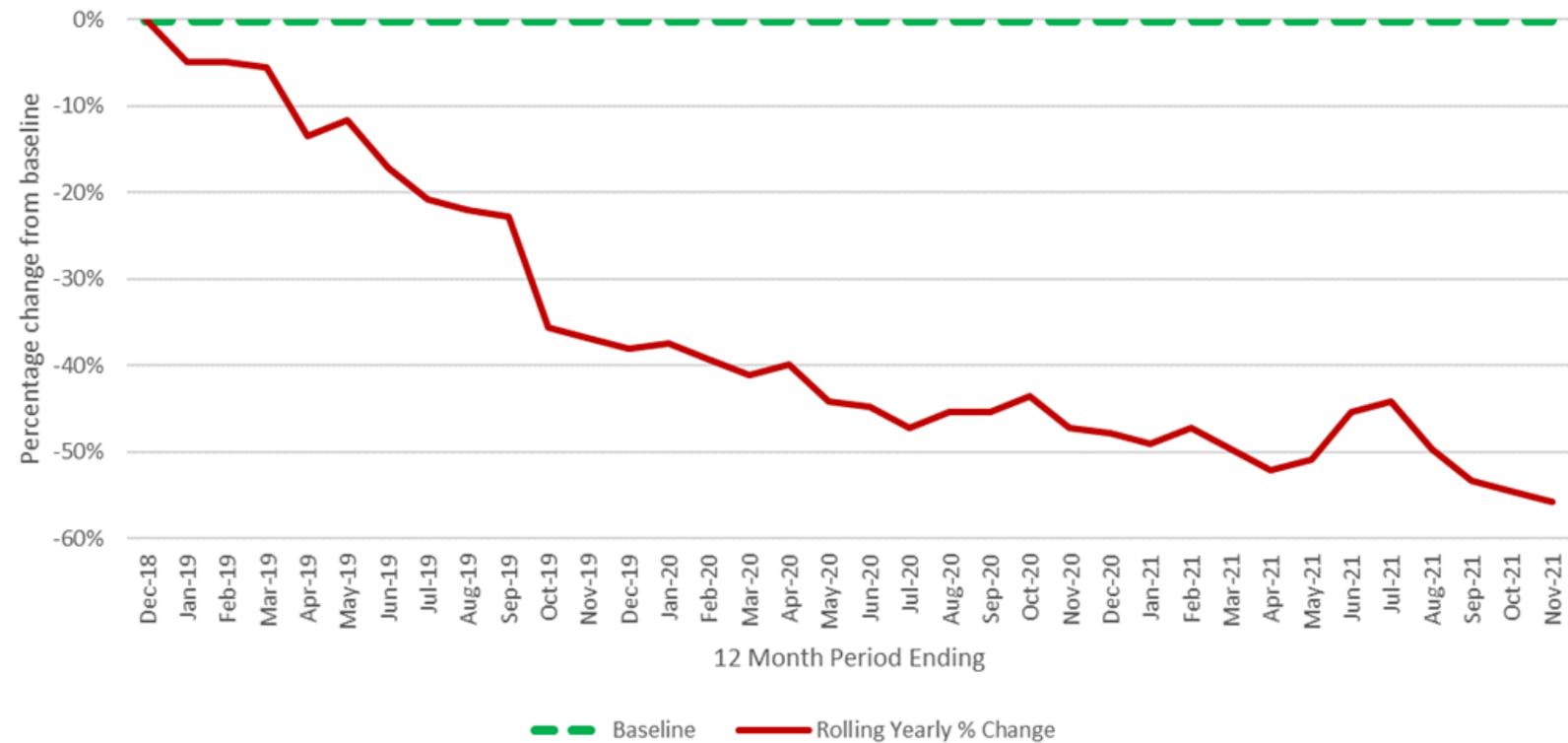
- Regular Police & Community weapon sweeps across the borough
- Safer Schools Officers delivery of violence/knife crime awareness programmes
- Youth justice scrutiny panels every 6 months to ensure out of court disposals for youth offenders are consistent, fair and of value
- Engage (in-custody youth worker programme) delivered in custody suites
- Licencing Teams, Police & Partners target NTE violence at demand (Op Leuctra).
- Project Nomad: mobile 4G cameras to identify offenders & support prosecutions in key locations
- Problem Orientated Policing: MPS/UCL initiative to reduce crime in 5 key hotspot locations
- MPS 'Street Safe' app maps perception of safe/unsafe spaces across the borough
- Enhanced VAWG Policing plan in Finsbury Park/Blackstock Rd (Op Verona)
- PAI's – non-enforcement focussed community engagement taking place in every ward

# Violence and Knife Crime Reduction

- Regular analysis and tasking to key trends, patterns and hotspots
- Environmental visual audits and subsequent improvement plans on high harm locations
- Installation of 7 additional knife bins across the borough
- “No Knife Shop” Initiative and test purchase operations
- Adult habitual knife carriers managed through the multi-agency Integrated Offender Management scheme
- Group Offending Partnership Panel
- Integrated Gangs Team
- Targeted communication campaigns (Not in my Community)
- Youth Violence Protection Toolkit available to every school and college on the borough
- Strong VCS partnerships with organisations including Minority Matters, Ben Kinsella Trust, CYP and Arsenal in the Community, all focused on violent crime reduction and exploitation
- Extensive investment in CCTV
- Robust approach to Licensing
- Nightsafe Patrols
- Trauma informed needs assessments for young people
- Maximising opportunities around “Teachable Moments” – hospitals & custody suites
- Comprehensive youth safety offer

# Knife Crime Trends

Knife Injury Victims (U25 and exc DA) Longterm Trend v Baseline (2017/18)



- Sustained reduction over 3 years (Dec 18 – Nov 21)
- Attributed to initiatives including the Integrated Gangs Team, the partnership approach to youth offending, out of court disposal scrutiny panel and the joined up police and continued partnership tasking
- Introduction of the “No Knife Shop” scheme to promote shops who opt not to sell knives and installation of knife bins at a number of locations, Safer Hillrise Project

# Youth Crime and Youth Safety

## Achievements and impact

- The partnership focussed Youth Safety Strategy 2020-2021, which was launched in November 2020, has led to a number of significant achievements in relation to the area. The strategy was clear that youth safety is everybody's responsibility with clear parallels to the safeguarding of children
- Strengthening of early intervention and prevention services for children and young people through our new Young Islington universal youth offer. New contracts and/or arrangements are in place for Lift, Rose bowl and Platform youth spaces with a multi-agency approach. Soapbox is still accessible to young people in the EC1 part of the borough
- Successful inspection in relation to young people with SEND published in December 2021. Highlighted the support that is in place for young people with SEND who are at risk of, or involved in offending
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation have cited Islington's work in relation to the disproportionality of Black and Mixed Race boys as being good practice in its national guidance
- Additional funding secured by NCL to support mental health of young people
- Islington led on the Resettlement Pathfinder project for young people leaving custody
- Parenting champions programmes and representatives supporting our approach

### **Impact - Quarter 3 2021/22**

- Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) diverted away from the criminal justice system – 90% up from 85% in Q2
- Continued reductions in all three of the national youth justice indicators - FTEs, Custody and Re-offending

# Youth Crime and Youth Safety

## Focus & Challenges for 2022/23

### Challenges

1. Ongoing impact of the pandemic on Serious Youth Violence across London and beyond. 2021 saw the highest number of teenage homicides on record in London with 31 young people killed. 2 of these were in Islington
2. The increased sophistication and adaptation of organised crime groups post-lockdown. They now have additional means of exploiting children/young people
3. The increased rates of child poverty and deprivation following the pandemic and the cost of living increases
4. More young people experiencing mental health difficulties which can also be family-based

### Future Work/Opportunities

1. Continued delivery of the Youth Safety strategy with the partnership and community
  2. The ability of the new Young Islington locality networks to focus more robustly on early intervention and prevention
  3. Pan – London Your Choices CBT intervention funded by the Home Office. Islington is a tier 1 borough receiving more funding
  4. Focussing further on school interventions including further reductions of school exclusions
  5. Increased cross-border work to tackle gangs and youth violence
  6. Likely continued work in partnership with the VRU
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# Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

## Achievements and impact

- VAWG Strategy 2021-2026 launched in November 2021 is designed to ensure that Islington continues to be one of the leading and most forward-thinking areas in the country in tackling all forms of VAWG
- Significant expansion of Islington's VAWG services due to additional council investment plus funding from central government, Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health and the London Violence Reduction Unit
- Islington Council achieved Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation in December - the gold standard for housing providers in tackling domestic abuse
- Safety Walk in February highlighted issues of safety of women and girls on our streets and the council's Safe Havens scheme

# Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

## Achievements and impact

### Impact (April – Dec 2021)

- Increased specialist services for survivors and their families:
  - 1,243 survivors and families were supported by Solace and the Samira project
  - 117 survivors accessed Islington's Domestic Abuse counselling service
  - 96% felt better able to recognise abusive behaviours & 69% felt safer
- Increased actions to reduce risk from perpetrators of DA:
  - 583 survivors supported to access civil and legal orders
  - 89 'Clare's Law' applications were made
- Increased training and support to front line staff - LBI Workforce Development Team trained 265 practitioners and provided 108 VAWG case consultations

# Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

## Innovation: Domestic Abuse Daily Safeguarding Meeting

Islington's new Daily Safeguarding Meeting (DSM) launched on the 4 January 2021 replacing the (monthly) DA MARAC meetings.

### During 2021:

- 241 DSM meetings were held
- 695 high and medium risk referrals heard at the DSM meetings
- 3,100 actions/outcomes achieved through the DSM partnership work to reduce the risk from the perpetrators and address the needs of survivors and their children
- Additional 523 lower risk referrals were heard at weekly pre-DSM meeting

### Impact

- Repeat referrals to the DSM reduced by 5% in 2021 (23% repeat rate in 2021 compared to 28% repeat rate in 2020 MARAC)
- Engagement of survivors referred to DSM with support services including IDVA increased to 76% (from 18% engagement of survivors in MARAC in 2020)
- Responses to high and medium referrals were 15 times quicker when referred to the DSM (referrals heard at the DSM on average within 2-3 working days compared to 40-45 days when referred to monthly MARAC)
- Requests for civil and legal protection orders increased 7x (465 requests through DSM from Jan – June 2021, compared to 61 at MARAC in the same period of 2020)

# Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

## Focus & Challenges for 2022/23

### Challenges

1. Ongoing impact of the pandemic on VAWG– DSM, VAWG services and statutory partners are continuing to see an increase in number and complexity of referrals
2. Increasing the safety of women and girls in our communities, schools and workplaces
3. Increasing criminal justice outcomes for survivors of rape and sexual assaults and domestic abuse
4. Increasing support to young people experiencing Domestic Abuse

### Future Work/Opportunities

1. Delivery of the new VAWG Strategy through our comprehensive partnership plan
2. Women's Safety campaign and training with targeted sessions for men
3. University of Essex research on young people and Domestic Abuse
4. Islington Council are leading on new Public Health funded North London Sexual Health Independent Sexual Violence Advice service starts April 2022
5. Further expansion of the Safe Havens scheme
6. VAWG training for youth workers and VCS in Islington
7. Further developing our work with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse including through our Journey to Change Service and 3 year PHD research project

# Women's Safety & Safety on the Streets

- Committed to increasing Islington Safe Haven Scheme from 100 locations to 300 by March 2023. Training video created and website relaunched in order to support the on boarding of new businesses to the scheme
- Knife surrender bins have recovered over 1500 items since their installation
- High profile series of Women's Walks to reclaim public spaces and to raise awareness
- Safer Spaces project – one of the first in the UK to consult with over 100k premises in the borough on feelings of safety to form strategies for working with communities to make them feel safer in the borough
- Women's Safety training pilot – with focus on how the public can be up-standers of women's safety
- Successful promotion of the Women's Night Safety Charter with the vast majority of signatories from Islington
- Extensive work undertaken in conjunction with licenced premises to provide Women's Safety training and awareness including drink spiking prevention kits. This includes advice and training for licensees and door staff on identifying and supporting vulnerable women
- Council & Police led campaign to raise awareness of robbery hotspot locations

# Wider Community Safety

- Delivered over 50 separate multi-agency projects to reduce ASB and crime in the borough - an increase of 40% on previous year
- Early intervention and co-ordination briefings taking place weekly to prevent escalation of ASB
- Conducted 20 Environmental Visual Audits (EVA) in the year making physical improvements to estates on the borough to reduce crime and ASB
- Anti-Social Behaviour Early Intervention Scheme fully embedded in conjunction with police, providing an early intervention approach to dealing with crime
- Islington Community MARAC continues to deliver multi-agency support to complex ASB cases. Referrals still at all-time highs with over 500 positive outcomes in the year
- Effective tri-borough operational group in place with Haringey and Hackney councils and police to tackle crime and ASB in the Finsbury Park area
- Violence Reduction project launched in response to youth violence in North Islington, following the murder of two young people in Hillrise in 2021
- Increase in mobile CCTV assets to deal with crime and ASB

# Hate Crime

Increasing confidence in reporting hate crime is a key priority, and hence it is expected hate crime figures will rise in line with the partnership work undertaken. To ensure we deal with this issue effectively our Hate Crime Strategy for 2021-24 has four key aims:

- Raising awareness of hate crime and increasing reporting
  - Ensure an effective operational response
  - Support vulnerable victims
  - Work in partnership with the community
- After seeing a reduction in Hate Crimes at transport hubs and an increase within residential areas due to lockdown measures, we're starting to see the return to pre-pandemic locations
  - Vulnerable hate crime victims are being supported in the Community MARAC process which provides multi-agency risk reduction support for complex cases
  - Despite having to deliver most of the work online, Islington undertook a successful Hate Crime Awareness Week
  - The Islington Hate Crime forum has continued to meet and undertake the relevant overview online to ensure best attendance from a wide range of partners

# Rough Sleeping & Street Population

- Continued reductions in the number of people rough sleeping on the borough with the most recent street count finding 13 people – a 78% reduction in numbers over the past three years
- Multi-agency meeting to manage risk of harm to known street-based drug users as well as any issues in relation to ASB
- 2x Complex Needs Navigators are being recruited to street population team to focus on providing intensive support to people in tenancies who are at risk of becoming homeless and working on prevention
- The Westminster Drug project service started in October 21 funded by Department of Levelling up Homes and Communities. This service offers outreach support to people who are currently or have a history of rough sleeping and need support around drugs and/or alcohol
- This strong multi-disciplinary approach utilising specialist skills and knowledge has been fundamental to the success of supporting people away from the streets. Further funding opportunities are being sought to continue to develop the offer
- Street Outreach service contract comes to an end shortly and there will be a procurement process taking place to identify the service provider for the future

# Exploitation & Extremism

## Modern Day Slavery (MDS)

- Multi-agency MDS board developed with robust input from a range of partners and recognised as significantly improved from the Human Trafficking Foundation
- Case sampling to identify good practice and areas where responses can be improved
- Trained over 400 staff in MDS awareness
- Established strong links to the MPS teams who deal with MDS/HT cases
- Next steps – reviewing scope and lead on MDS for the future

## Prevent

- Close monitoring and response to the rise in far-right linked to conspiracy theories, anti-vaccinations and Brexit
- Continued support around training provided in schools, colleges and other settings
- As expected, a reduction in centrally provided funding means that there will be minimal funding for external projects. Focus will be on risk reduction in cases with possible exploitation
- Training for staff in support hotels in Islington to reduce the risk of far-right targeting venues
- Lockdowns have seen an increase in concerns around online radicalisation

# Overall Crime Performance Summary

## January – December 2021 v Previous Year

Crime Type	Number of Offences 2020 (between 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020 (LBI))	Number of Offences 2021 (between 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021 (LBI))		Difference between 2020 and 2021 (LBI)	MPS Rank* (out of 32 where 1 = highest levels of crime)	Percentage Change between 2020 and 2021 (LBI)	Percentage Change between 2020 and 2021 (MPS)
<b>Total Notifiable Offences</b>							
Total Notifiable Offences	25,458	24,835	●	-623	17	-2.4%	0.1%
<b>Crime Type</b>							
Violence Against the Person	6,078	6,634	●	556	21	9.1%	6.1%
Sexual Offences	490	631	●	141	21	28.8%	26.5%
Robbery Offences	1,187	991	●	-196	9	-16.5%	-17.8%
Burglary Offences	2,110	1,816	●	-294	14	-13.9%	-12.7%
MV Offences	2,626	2,313	●	-313	26	-11.9%	-8.3%
Theft Offences	7,511	7,375	●	-136	8	-1.8%	5.4%
Criminal Damage Offences	1,454	1,506	●	52	22	3.6%	3.0%
Drugs Offences	1,554	1,124	●	-430	20	-27.7%	-19.2%
Possession of Weapons Offences	190	167	●	-23	15	-12.1%	-16.0%
Public Order Offences	1,979	2,014	●	35	15	1.8%	8.6%
Other Offences	279	264	●	-15	24	-5.4%	0.0%

# Youth and Hate Crime Performance

## January – December 2021 v Previous Year

Crime Type	Number of Offences 2020 (between 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020 (LBI))	Number of Offences 2021 (between 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021 (LBI))	Difference between 2020 and 2021 (LBI)	MPS Rank* (out of 32 where 1 = highest levels of crime)	Percentage Change between 2020 and 2021 (LBI)	Percentage Change between 2020 and 2021 (MPS)
Moped Enabled Crime	199	332	● 133	2	66.8%	11.3%
Pedal Cycle Enabled Crime	1,618	1,676	● 58	3	3.6%	19.9%
Serious Youth Violence	212	199	● -13	11	-6.1%	-12.1%
Youth Violence	430	415	● -15	24	-3.5%	-0.6%
Gun Crime Offs	33	34	● 1	21	3.0%	-20.9%
Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged Offs	7	2	● -5	22	-71.4%	-30.9%
Knife Crime Offs	439	383	● -56	11	-12.8%	-9.6%
Knife Crime With Injury Offs	95	83	● -12	19	-12.6%	0.1%
Knife Crime Injury Victims 1-24 (Non DA)	40	29	● -11	17	-27.5%	-0.2%
Knife Possession Offs	143	118	● -25	16	-17.5%	-13.8%
<b>Hate Crime</b>						
Anti-Semitic Offs	11	31	20	8	181.8%	45.1%
Disability Hate Crime Offs	22	27	5	4	22.7%	20.2%
Faith Hate Crime Offs	51	70	19	11	37.3%	17.4%
Homophobic Hate Crime Offs	111	137	26	6	23.4%	22.0%
Islamophobic Offs	28	30	2	15	7.1%	9.4%
Racist Hate Crime Offs	662	744	82	15	12.4%	4.6%
Transgender Hate Offs	12	17	5	6	41.7%	33.0%
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>						
Domestic Abuse Incidents	4,252	4,227	-25	21	-0.6%	-1.5%
Domestic Abuse Offs	2,600	2,619	19	21	0.7%	0.9%
Domestic Abuse SDs (Rate)	18%	13%		7	-4.6%	-3.5%